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PCT/AU2005/000395

Australian Government

Patent Office
Canberra

I, JANENE PEISKER, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. 2004901426 for a patent by PETER JOHN MCNEILL as filed on 19 March 2004.



WITNESS my hand this
First day of April 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Peisker'.

JANENE PEISKER
TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION
SUPPORT AND SALES

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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Patents Act 1990

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION FOR THE INVENTION ENTITLED:-

Temporary Safety Fencing

The invention is described in the following statement:

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to temporary safety fencing and in particular to temporary safety fencing incorporating a silt fence.

Background of the Invention

For many years it has been considered desirable to provide fencing around building sites in order to prevent unauthorised persons and particularly children entering the site and possibly injuring themselves. In recent years such fencing has become compulsory in many jurisdictions. Typically this fencing comprises chain wire panels supported by tubular galvanised steel uprights themselves supported and located by having their bases inserted in appropriately sized holes in concrete blocks. It is therefore concrete blocks which support the fence in place rather than having the lower extremities of the uprights buried in the ground as with a permanent fence.

More recently there has also been a requirement for building sites to incorporate silt fences. These silt fences are intended to prevent erosion and movement of exposed soil from the building site on to adjacent properties. Typically these silt fences comprised a relatively fine thermoplastic mesh buried in the ground at its base and supported in an upright position by attachment to stakes at discreet intervals. Typically silt fences are constructed parallel to safety fencing but spaced therefrom. A silt fence may typically stand approximately one metre inside a safety fence and must be taken down and re-erected when machinery, equipment or building materials enter or leave a site. The space in between the safety fence and the silt fence is also difficult to maintain free of weeds. The dual requirement of a silt fence and a temporary safety fence is therefore cumbersome to construct and inconvenient to maintain during the course of building projects.

Object of the Invention

Accordingly it is an object of the present invention to provide a system incorporating temporary safety fencing and a silt barrier for use about building sites which

ameliorates one or more of the abovementioned disadvantages with existing systems or at least provides the market with an alternative.

Short Summary of the Invention

According to the present invention there is provided a combination safety fence and silt barrier comprising multiple safety fencing panels supported by upright posts; at least one of the lower extremities of each pair of adjacent upright posts belonging to adjacent panels being supported in a tubular hole in a weighted base; the tubular holes in the weighted bases being located adjacent one side of each weighted base so that each weighted base may be aligned to extend substantially only one side of the safety fence; the adjacent uprights of adjacent fence panels being attached each other at one or more points along their height above the level of a conventional silt fence in order that any instability arising from each upright of being supported by a weighted base extending laterally on substantially only one side of the upright may be negated by support means or a weighted base for the adjacent upright extending substantially laterally on the opposite side of the fence; the configuration of the safety fence, uprights and weighted bases being such that a silt fence may be provided between the laterally staggered panels of the safety fence, attached thereto and substantially co-linear with the safety fence whilst not interfering with or deflected by the weighted bases.

Brief Description of the Drawings

One embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of prior art temporary safety fencing;

Figure 2 is a side elevation of prior art silt fencing;

Figure 3 is a cross section through prior art silt and temporary fencing;

Figure 4 is a transverse section through a combination silt and safety fence in the accordance with the present invention;

Figure 5 is a part side elevation of temporary safety fencing in accordance with the present invention and;

Figure 6 is a top plan view of the weighted bases of fencing in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 7 is a top plan view of alternate weighted bases of fencing in accordance with the present invention.

Figure 8 is a transverse section through a alternate combination silt and safety fence in the accordance with the present invention;

Preferred Mode of Carrying out the Invention

It will be observed from figure 1 that existing temporary safety fencing comprises a number of chain wire fencing panels placed in end to end co-linear relationship with each other with the bases 2 of the tubular uprights 3 forming the ends of each panel 1 being inserted into tubular holes (not shown) in concrete blocks 4 in order to provide support for the fencing. It will be observed that each concrete block 4 receives the bases 2 of two tubular uprights 3 being tubular uprights defining the ends of adjacent panels. Typically the concrete blocks extend for a significant distance laterally out from each side of the fence as is best viewed in Figure 3.

Typically a silt fence 5 is erected within the temporary safety fencing. This silt fence comprises a relatively fine thermoplastic mesh 6 buried in the ground at its base 7 and supported vertically by stakes 8. As is best viewed from Figure 3 the silt fence is typically spaced approximately one metre from the temporary safety fencing.

According to the present invention and in particular the embodiment depicted in Figure 4 uprights 3 of adjacent fencing panels are placed in side by side rather than colinear orientation with respect to each other in order to provide a space 9 there between to facilitate placement of a continuous silt fence 10 between the uprights which silt fence may run along the length of the temporary safety fencing and be supported there by.

It will be observed that in order for the silt fence 10 with its base 11 buried in the ground to pass through the area where the lower extremities of uprights 3 forming the ends of adjacent fencing are supported in stabilising concrete blocks 12 it is necessary that the base of each adjacent upright 3 is supported in a tubular hole 13 (best viewed in Figure 6) of a separate block 12. The use of two separate blocks 12 where each separate fence panel meets its adjacent fence panel together with the side by side rather than end to end orientation of the uprights 3 ensures that a gap between the uprights 3 maybe maintained in order that a silt fence may pass in an uninterrupted manner through this area.

It will be appreciated that the orientation of the concrete blocks 12 and uprights 3 depicted in figures 4, 5 and 6 permits attachment of the silt fence 10 to the safety fence and without the necessity for separate stakes 8 to support the silt fence. The resulting composite silt fence and temporary safety fence is far neater than in the prior art arrangement depicted in Figure 3 and furthermore it is a simple matter to clear the area about the composite fence.

It will be observed that stock yard clamps 15 may be placed at positions 13 and 14 above the top of the silt fence in order to tie adjacent uprights 3 to each other thereby ensuring that the combined stability of adjacent concrete blocks 12 is available to each upright.

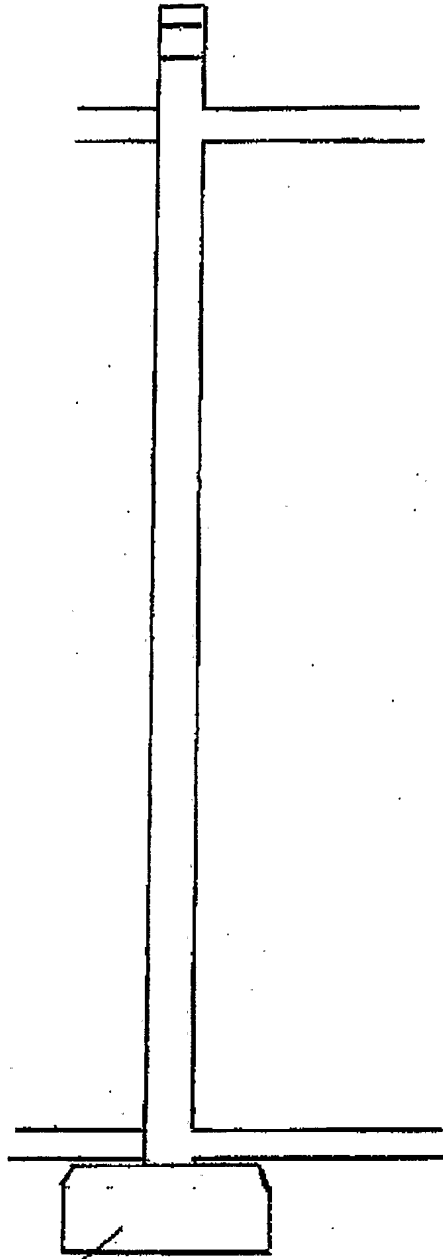
It should be appreciated that in certain situations only one concrete block 12 may be necessary to stabilise each pair of adjacent uprights 3 due to the fact that stock yard clamps 15 join adjacent uprights. For example where a safety fence immediately abuts and runs parallel to a footpath the base of one of a pair of

adjacent uprights may simply be provided with a horizontal laterally extending non weighted steel plate (not shown) in order to assist in bracing the fence against tipping over the footpath; the adjacent upright leg been inserted in a weighted concrete block. Unlike a weighted concrete block a horizontal laterally extending non balasted steel plate would not present a trip hazard on a footpath.

It should be appreciated that alternate embodiments of the above invention apart from those above described may be devised without departing from the scope and intendment of the invention.

Dated this 19th day of March 2004.

Peter John McNeill



12 FIG 5

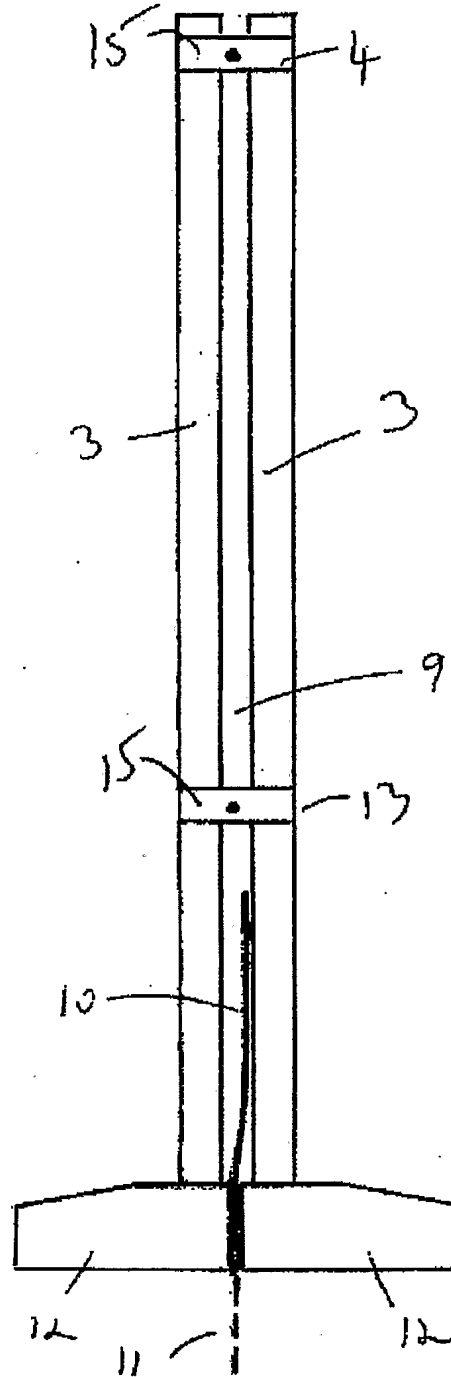


FIG 4

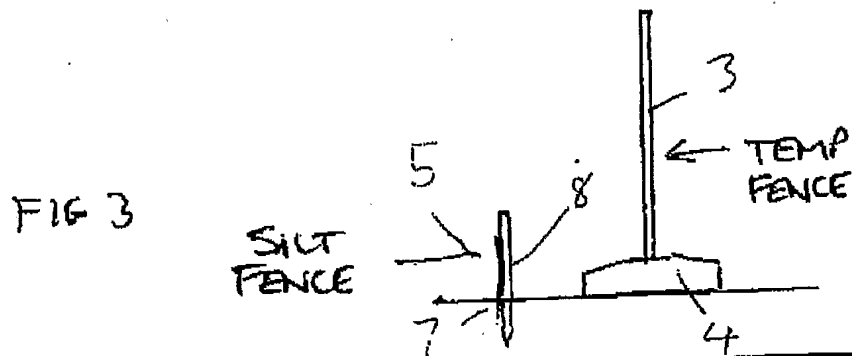
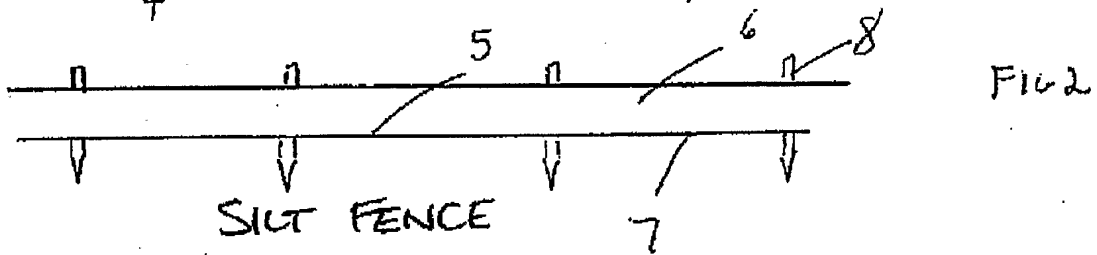
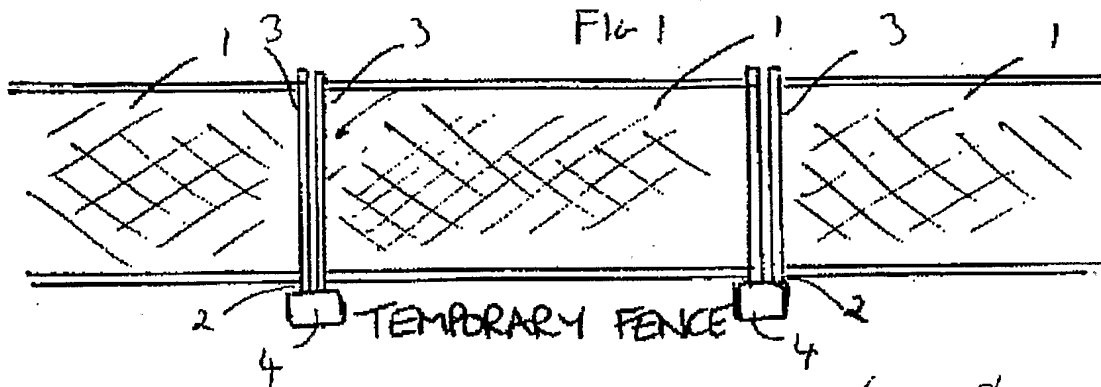


FIG 6

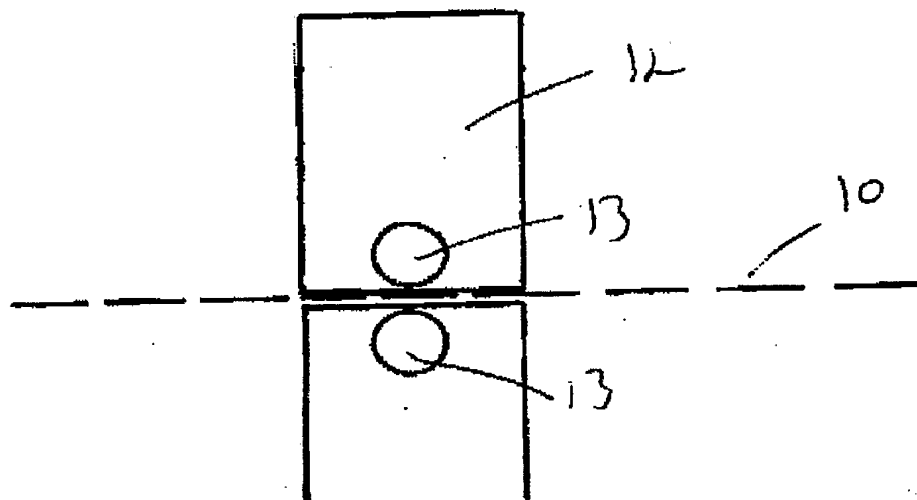


FIG 7

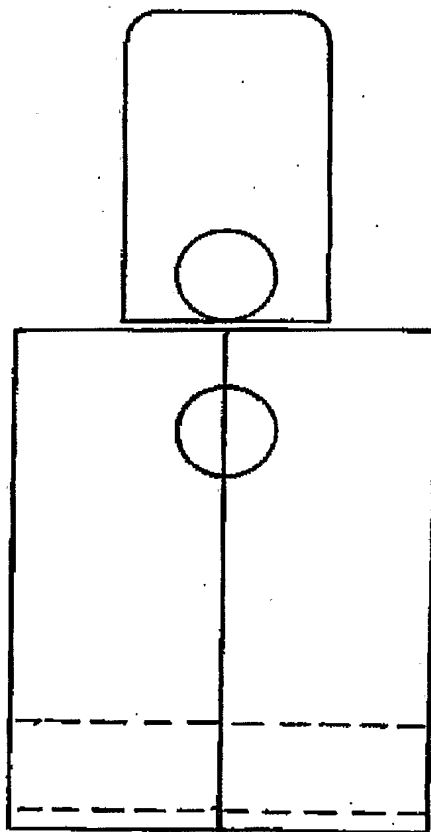


FIG 8

